

working together and putting aside partisan politics for the benefit of our country. We need to really not forget how important that is to our people at this very critical time. So I thank the Senator from West Virginia for his remarks.

Mr. BYRD. I thank my friend, the Senator from Ohio, for his kind comments.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ENERGY POLICY

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, earlier today I joined colleagues to underscore the importance of an energy policy to our national security. One of the reasons I came to the Senate was to adopt an energy policy. I lived with the lack of one as the mayor of the city of Cleveland and as Governor of the State of Ohio.

An energy policy is needed to secure our national economy and guarantee our competitiveness in the global marketplace and now, more than ever before, to secure our national security. We do indeed have to harmonize our environmental needs and our energy needs to continue to improve the quality of our air and water, public health, and at the same time guarantee we have the resources at reasonable cost to meet our energy needs.

In my opinion, we are in the midst of an energy crisis, one that is having a tremendous influence over the state of our economy and is affecting the quality of life of the American people and their confidence about the economic future of our Nation.

I believe this crisis is caused by several factors. One, as I mentioned, the national energy policy, is faulty. Two, we saw in California a deregulation law which could be looked at in other parts of the country. Three, environmental policies have contributed to a lack of diversity and difficulties in siting new facilities, pipelines, and transmission lines. The definition of something called NSR, new source review, has put utilities and manufacturers in limbo to the extent they are doing nothing to improve the environment, and at the same time doing nothing to improve the availability of energy in our country. Fourth, we are too reliant on foreign sources of oil. Fifth, I think we have had an inappropriate demonizing of nuclear power in this country.

As the Presiding Officer of the Senate knows, in his part of the country, many States rely heavily on nuclear power. Today we are a fossil fuel-based economy. Although there is broad recognition there will eventually be a shift away from primary reliance on fossil fuels and a greater use and emphasis on other resources, there are many people who would argue that alternative fuels are the answer to our energy crisis.

Yes, several alternative energy sources exist today. They are either inexhaustible: solar, wind, nuclear; or renewed through a natural process: hy-

dropower, plant-based fuels such as ethanol and vegetable oils.

Currently, the contribution of alternative energy sources to U.S. needs range from less than one-tenth of 1 percent for wind and solar power, 3 percent from hydroelectric and biofuels each, and 8 percent from nuclear energy. Today, however, fossil fuel reserves appear to be adequate to serve this Nation's current energy needs, with a 70-year reserve for oil and approximately a 250-year reserve for coal at current consumption rates.

One of my colleagues noted that wind power is the fastest growing source of electricity in the world and we should look to it more seriously as an alternative energy source. Another colleague pointed out that solar panels covering 100 by 100 square miles would produce enough solar energy to power this entire Nation.

The truth is, although alternative energy sources are being used in some places across the country, we have been subsidizing solar and wind power for over 25 years. Combined, they make up only one-tenth of 1 percent of the total energy demand today.

Renewables are now generally costlier than fossil fuels. For example, solar power is currently 8 to 10 times more costly. Even assuming an optimistic technology scenario, it will take at least 30 to 40 years before renewables energy infrastructure could be built from its current level to start contributing significantly to our energy supplies.

In this chart we are talking about the impact of the lack of an energy policy. Costs have a disproportionate impact on low-income families. Since the beginning of the 107th Congress, I have been holding hearings across my State. I have asked individuals and business owners to relay their experiences on how the energy crisis has impacted them. In Cleveland, for example, I held a meeting with Catholic Charities, Lutheran Housing, the Salvation Army, senior citizens, low-income parents, and handicapped individuals.

I heard many heartrending stories about their struggles to be able to afford their monthly energy bills. The Catholic diocese said in the year 2000 their help line received 3,400 calls for basic needs, items such as food, utilities, mortgage, and rent. The number of calls the diocese received went up 96 percent from 1999 to 2000, a 194-percent increase from 1998 to 2000. In the first 7 weeks of 2001, the Salvation Army in Cleveland had 559 families seeking assistance with energy costs. In comparison, for all of 2000 they had 330 families.

On this chart, the Department of Energy demonstrates an individual or family making less than \$10,000 a year is going to spend 29 percent of their income on energy. Those making between \$10,000 and \$24,000 spend about 13 percent of their income on energy. Those making over \$50,000 spend 4 percent. It is obvious, for some of our

brothers and sisters, the choice sometimes comes down to paying for heat or paying for food. Because of this, many of them had to rely on hunger centers for their meals and other necessities.

The next chart shows the principal sources of energy today are oil, natural gas, and coal. It goes without saying that these fuels have become essential elements in creating our way of life. Despite the fact that each year we use energy more efficiently, energy demand rises about two-thirds of the rate of economic growth. With the funk we have in the economy, that is a little bit down right now. The chart shows that nuclear, hydropower, and nonhydropower renewables and others make up a very small percentage of production. Any shortfall created between production and consumption of the other three main sources of energy—natural gas, oil, and coal—will be made up from imports. For example, oil imports have risen from 36 percent in 1973 to 56 percent in the year 2001. Refined gasoline net imports have risen from 1 percent in 1980 to approximately 5 percent in 2000. This increase in imports has been necessary to make up the difference from our closed refineries. Oil and natural gas demand is expected to continue to grow for the foreseeable future—oil at about 2 percent a year and gas in excess of 3 percent. Alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power are being pursued but will not alter this outlook for decades to come.

Next, U.S. energy production. Now that we know how much Americans can expect to consume over the next two to three decades—we are talking from 1995 to the year 2020—it is important to see how that expectation will be met, given our current state of resources. This chart shows how much energy we produce domestically by fuel type. We can see the hydropower. We can see the nuclear, nonrenewables. We have petroleum. We have natural gas. We have coal.

According to the Department of Energy, natural gas is expected to be the fastest growing component of world energy consumption. We saw that this winter when gas prices skyrocketed. Gas use is projected almost to double to 162 trillion cubic feet in 2020 from 84 trillion in 1999. If we do not increase infrastructure, installing more pipelines, the increased production will not reach our consumers.

According to a study by the non-profit operator of New England's power grid, New England will be increasing its natural gas demand from 16 percent in 1999 to a projected 45 percent in 2005, but they lack the local pipelines to distribute the gas to its markets.

With that in mind, we also know there is an estimated 40 percent of undiscovered natural gas located on land leased by the Federal and State government. These resources will be needed to be tapped to accommodate the inevitable increase in natural gas consumption. If not, then we face the hardship of increasing dependence on